

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-03

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, GDS

SUBJECT: U.S. DOMESTIC ECONOMY PACKAGED PROGRAM

REF: TOKYO 12003

1. GROVE NOW DEFINITELY COMMITTED TO PERIOD NOVEMBER 12-18, INCLUSIVE.

2. JONES'S AVAILABILITY STILL DEPENDS ON HIS GETTING APPROVAL FROM SECRETARY TREASURY SIMON, WHO HAS BEEN TIED UP WITH IMF-WORLD BANK CONFERENCE OVER LAST SEVERAL DAYS. ACCORDING JONES'S PRESENT SCHEDULE, HIS ONLY FREE PERIOD IN NOVEMBER WOULD BE WEEK OF 11/16-11/22, WHICH WOULD ALLOW OVERLAP OF TWO DAYS -- 17TH AND 18TH -- WITH GROVE. NO PROBLEM THOUGH IN UKOCKIS' PARTICIPATION ANY TIME DURING PACKAGE.

3. THERE IS A PROBLEM NOW, HOWEVER, WITH LAFFER. ALTHOUGH ORIGINALLY AGREEING TO FULL THREE-WEEK PERIOD, LAFFER JUST INFORMED CU THAT HE UNABLE TO SPARE THAT MUCH TIME BECAUSE OF HIS RESEARCH NEEDS AND CONSULTATION RESPONSIBILITIES.

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(HE ALSO FRANKLY ADMITTED IT WOULD BE TOO COSTLY, GIVEN

THE LIMITED FEES AND PERDIEM, SINCE WIFE WOULD ACCOMPANY.) WHEN LEARNING THAT NEITHER USG SPOKESMAN NOR

BUSINESSMAN REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE LIKELY SPEND MORE THAN ONE WEEK, LAFFER INITIALLY SAID HE TOO WOULD ONLY BE ABLE SPEND ONE WEEK. HE HAS COME AROUND TO TWO FULL WORK WEEKS NOW (NOVEMBER 10-21, INCLUSIVE) AND WILL MAKE FINAL COMMITMENT END THIS WEEK.

4. WHILE THIS DEVELOPMENT POSES VEXING PROBLEM FOR BOTH POST AND CU, IT IS NOT INSURMOUNTABLE. IF LAFFER AGREES TO TWO-WEEK PERIOD, POST COULD ASSUMABLY SHORTEN PACKAGE TO TWO INSTEAD OF INTENDED THREE WEEKS. THIS WOULD ALLOW COMBINATION OF GROVE AND LAFFER (AND POSSIBLY UKOCKIS) DURING FIRST PART OF OVERALL PERIOD, INCLUSION OF NATIONAL SEMINAR ON 11/17 OR 11/18 WITH GROVE, JONES, AND LAFFER, AND PAIRING FOR BRIEF SUBSEQUENT PERIOD OF LAFFER AND JONES. ALTHOUGH BY NO MEANS AN IDEAL SCHEDULE, IT SEEMS FEASIBLE.

5. IF LAFFER NOT AGREEABLE TO TWO FULL WEEKS OR POST ADHERES TO ORIGINAL THREE-WEEK CONCEPT, DEPARTMENT COULD ATTEMPT RECRUIT ALTERNATE ACADEMIC AS PER ORIGINAL LIST CANDIDATES (STATE 187084). AT THIS LATE DATE, HOWEVER, LIKELIHOOD OF GETTING PRIME SPEAKER WOULD APPEAR SLIM IN VIEW DIFFICULTY LINING UP ACADEMICIAN TO MEET MID-NOVEMBER SCHEDULE TO WHICH BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE NOW ALREADY COMMITTED. (AS POST FULLY AWARE, RECRUITMENT OF LATTER POSED PARTICULARLY NETTLESOME PROBLEM.) PLS ADVISE WILLINGNESS PROGRAM LAFFER TWO WEEKS BY SEPT.4 COB TOKYO TIME. ROBINSON

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